

HB 1177 Southwest Basin Roundtable Minutes January 12, 2011 – Cortez

Members	Mike Preston	Steve Harris	Ken Beegles
Present:	Val Valentine	Ann Oliver	April Montgomery
	Michael Canterbury	Jim Siscoe	Gerald Koppenhafen
	Chuck Lawler	Jason Wells	Tim Hunter
	Steve Fearn	John Porter	Peter Ortego
	John Taylor	Bruce Smart	Megan Maloney
	Don Schwindt	Carrie Lile	Pat Greer
	Russell Kennedy	Bruce Whitehead	
Guests:	Denise Rue-Pastin	Wanda Cason	John Whitney
	Don Magnuson	Greg Johnson	Reed Wright
	Charlie Smith	Eric Bikis	Brice Lee
	Randy Carver		

Chairman Mike Preston called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Introductions were made.

Administrative Reports

Review & Approve Minutes – Nov. 10, 2010

The minutes of Nov. 10, 2010 were approved as written.

Mike thanked Jenny Russell and welcomed Denise Rue-Pastin as the new Education – Outreach Liaison for the SWRT.

Officer/IBCC Representative Reports

Will be covered in agenda item later in meeting.

Statewide Roundtable Summit

Mike announced that there will be a statewide roundtable summit March 3 in Denver. Let Mike know who is interested in going. Travel expenses will be paid for the Chair, Education Liaison, and two roundtable members.

WSRA Basin Roundtable Funds Balance

The current balance is \$115,304, excluding Rico's request for \$20,000, which if approved would lower our balance to \$95,304. The Statewide account stands at \$3,853,782.

Review & Survey Input on IBCC Report to Governor

Greg Johnson, CWCB, reported that the focus of the March 3 Statewide Roundtable Summit in Westminster will be on the IBCC Report to the Governor. The report is a result of a request from Governor Ritter to the IBCC in 2010, requesting results by the end of 2010. The IBCC has held many sub-committee meetings throughout the year and have produced a report sent to former Governor Ritter and Governor Hickenlooper, outlining IBCC's position on big issues. The goal is now to go back to the Roundtables and other interested entities to get feedback and determine how to move forward. It is desired to get this feedback in time for the Summit. The report includes key findings from SWSI 2010,

time line of major accomplishments, and a 2011 work plan. The next step is to break the SWSI 2010 into basin reports. Mike said that this will be the focus of the Southwest Basin Roundtable meeting in March. Greg distributed a survey for all members to complete; the information will be used at the Summit.

There is a new IBCC Director, John Stulp, formerly State Commissioner of Agriculture, who is also been named Special Water Advisor to the Governor. Alex will remain as deputy director with the Department of Natural Resources. Mike King will remain Director of DNR.

Steve Harris and John Porter identified the strategies and asked for member feedback:

1. Identified Projects & Processes (IPP's)

- a. How to accomplish with budget constraints?
- b. Most projects are long term and will be affected only in short term by budget problems.

2. Water Conservation

- a. How involved should the state be in state-wide mandates/legislation?
- b. Each municipality is different – one-fits-all is not appropriate. Considerable cost in enforcing/regulating. Municipalities the size of Cortez and larger (2,500 AF threshold) have already developed conservation plans to qualify for State programs.
- c. What is the incentive for water rights users to save?
- d. State should produce policies that provide incentives.
- e. Should saved water be used for mitigation or growth?
- f. If legislation is needed, it really needs to be carefully thought out to avoid unintentional consequences.

3. Agriculture Transfer

- a. Perennial crop land should be protected. If it is fallowed for more than two years, it is generally destroyed.
- b. There are more reasons for ag dry up than urban needs which include economic forces and generational changes.

4. New Supply Development

John Porter asked who believes Colorado should do everything it can to develop its entitlement of the Colorado River? Who believes that Colorado water law of prior appropriation doctrine should be the guiding factor? Where do you think that water will be developed—West or East Slope? The Water Availability Study reports that there is anywhere from 200,000 to 900,000 af available. He gave a hypothetical example: Parker Sanitation District decides to build a 200,000 af project and does not want to dry up the South Platte or Arkansas Valley and doesn't want to take water out of the headwaters on the West Slope. They go to Flaming Gorge and pump the water over. That's 200,000 af more each year that Colorado gets to use of its entitlement, but 200,000 af less that goes to Lake Powell/Lake Mead. Compound that for ten years during which Powell and Mead don't spill. That COULD trigger a call from the Lower Basin sooner than it might have, triggering this new diverter to stop diverting any more water. This results in a "junior-junior" water right. He referred members to page 16 of the SWSI 2010 Mission Statement, Key Findings & Recommendations report. Item #2 says new development supply should be accompanied by a risk management program.

Concerns: 1) will a junior-junior water right require legislation? 2) tying land and water use together, 3) quantification or IPPS for non-consumptive uses, 4) what about local control? Mike added that it is not uncommon to condition water rights via contractual provisions. There are many examples of such constraints in contracts involving USBR storage projects. Steve suggested that water banking might be able to help under these conditions. Discussion occurred.

Non-consumptive uses

1. We need to quantify and identify IPPs to meet those needs.

Organizing Info for Inclusion in Basin Level 2010 SWSI Report

Each roundtable will have the opportunity to flesh out their own basin report for inclusion in the SWSI 2010. It is our opportunity to give input on what our roundtable has accomplished in its first five years, and how we intend to fill supply gaps and needs. The information is due to the state by the end of April. Both consumptive and non-consumptive data will be included. It was proposed that SWCD assemble a draft report from the information being gathered by Roundtable members and committees, which will be reviewed at our April meeting. John Porter asked that a formal letter be sent to SWCD that can be reviewed at SWCD's February meeting. Anyone or any group who has received funding from the Basin or the State needs to provide a one-page report on what has happened with their project to SWCD. Groups already involved in non-consumptive work also need to provide data even though they may not have received roundtable funding. SWCD will contact everyone with specific requests.

Education & Outreach Committee Update

Denise Rue-Pastin reported that the E&O committee met before the Roundtable meeting. She distributed a one-page summary of the action plan developed by the committee. Members are to read the plan and consider the tasks list in order to discuss at the March meeting.

Non-Consumptive Needs Assessment Committee Update

Ann Oliver gave a committee update. They agree that there is a need to include NC use in SWSI and want to maintain a parallel with the consumptive needs side. Eventually, quantification would have to be done. There is a concern that the IPP list might preclude assistance to projects that are currently unforeseen.

Consideration of Proposals for Basin & Statewide Funds

MVIC Groundhog Reservoir Bathymetric Survey

Basin - \$35,000

Randy Carver introduced Don Magnuson, new Manager of MVIC. MVIC is doing a company-wide analysis of two reservoirs to determine how much storage is possible. Total cost of the project is approximately \$157,000. After discussion, John Taylor moved and Meghan Maloney seconded that the request be approved. There was consensus.

La Plata River Water Resources Operations Model

State - \$148,823

Brice Lee, President La Plata WCD announced that a final design for Long Hollow Reservoir has been submitted to the State Engineer's office. They will probably bid sub-contractors early this summer. This request for state funding would be used to design a model for the La Plata River management. It would help quantify how much water would go to O&M and would assist La Plata Water Conservancy District

to develop user costs. After discussion, Steve Harris moved and Chuck Wanner seconded that the request be supported to go for state funds. There was consensus.

Lake Durango Water Authority – Source Water Infrastructure

State - \$1,000,000

Charlie Smith, General Manager of Lake Durango Water Authority, presented a summary of their request for state funds. The grant would be used to provide infrastructure to deliver raw water from Lake Nighthorse to Lake Durango Reservoir. They intend to purchase some of La Plata West Water Authority ALP water to be taken via the intake structure at Lake Nighthorse that LPWWA constructed, and will let LPWWA use Lake Durango's treatment facility. Both Tribes representatives agreed that the project could not in any way cause a conflict with any existing agreements the Tribes have regarding ALP water. Bruce Whitehead pointed out that currently the water that LPWWA is considering purchasing is under contract between ALPWCD and Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority. Mike asked that Bruce W. and Chuck Lawler email their concerns to him (and copy Charlie Smith) to be included in his letter to CWCB. April M. gave suggestions to strengthen the application. After answering questions and further discussion, Russell Kennedy moved and Tim Hunter seconded that the request be supported to go for state funds. There was consensus.

Upcoming Events

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| • Statewide Roundtable Summit | March 3, | Westminster |
| • SWCD Spring Seminar | April 1 | Doubletree, Durango |
| • SW Basin Roundtable Meeting | April 13 | Durango |

Adjournment

Mike Preston adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.